



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE**

October 20, 1998

**H.R. 4151
Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act of 1998**

As cleared by the Congress on October 14, 1998

H.R. 4151 would establish a new federal crime relating to fraud through the use of identification information. Because its provisions would affect both criminal fines and the forfeiture of assets, the act could lead to increases in both receipts and direct spending, but any such increases would be less than \$500,000 in each year.

Because those prosecuted and convicted under H.R. 4151 could be subject to criminal fines, the federal government might collect additional fines if the legislation is enacted. Collections of such fines are recorded in the budget as governmental receipts (revenues), which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and spent in the following year. CBO expects that any additional collections from enacting H.R. 4151 would be negligible, however, because of the small number of cases likely to be involved. Because any increase in direct spending would equal the fines collected with a one-year lag, the additional direct spending also would be negligible.

Enacting H.R. 4151 also could lead to more assets being seized and forfeited to the United States, but we estimate that any such increase would be less than \$500,000 annually in value. Proceeds from the sale of any such assets would be deposited as revenues into the assets forfeiture fund of the Department of Justice and spent out of that fund in the same year. Thus, the change in direct spending from the assets forfeiture fund would match any increase in revenues to that fund.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Hadley. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.